

## ROTARY DRUM RAINHEAD

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to a device for separating debris and other such material from rainwater as it flows into a downpipe from a roof gutter.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

10 Many forms of separating devices have been developed over the years for this purpose. These devices generally rely upon fixed screens such as described in my earlier Australian Patent No. 629139. Although my earlier separating device is very effective in operation,  
15 there has developed a need to provide a separating device which is more self-cleaning.

## OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the invention to  
20 provide a separating device for the aforementioned purpose which is self-cleaning.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention provides a  
25 device for separating debris and other such material from rainwater as it flows into a downpipe from a roof gutter, said device comprising a compartment for fitting to the upper end of a downpipe, which compartment includes a horizontally pivoted perforated rotary drum which is  
30 designed to rotate when rainwater and entrained debris from an overhead gutter impinges on it such that the rainwater passes through the perforations in the drum into the associated downpipe and the debris is ejected outside of the device by the rotation of the drum.

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By the term "upper end of the downpipe" is meant an upwardly opening end which may be at the top of the downpipe or at any location between the top and

bottom, which has been formed by removing an intermediate section to leave one part with an upwardly opening end and another with a downwardly opening end. That is, the device may be located in any region of the downpipe but for maximum effectiveness it should be located adjacent to the gutter at the top end. The reason for this is that a large size outlet can be made in the gutter, which can be bigger than the diameter of the downpipe in the case of a downpipe with a circular transverse cross section or bigger in size than the downpipe transverse cross sectional size in the case of the downpipe having a rectangular transverse cross section, to enable extra large objects such as twigs, dead birds and other such large items to pass out of the gutter, which would not fit into a conventionally sized downpipe.

The outlet in the bottom wall of the gutter can include a rainwater flow guide which directs the water and debris onto the top surface of the rotary drum at a position past the central vertical axis of the drum such that the drum is caused to rotate in a direction which ejects the debris away from the device. Alternatively, a rainwater flow guide can be incorporated as an integral feature of the top wall of the compartment. Preferably, the bottom edge of the rainwater flow guide terminates only a few centimetres from the top of the rotary drum.

The rotary drum will generally take the form of a hollow cylinder with supporting end walls or spokes through which the horizontal axle upon which the drum rotates, extends. The surface of the drum can be formed from mesh, blades, perforated material or the like. Preferably it is formed from wire or plastic mesh. Metal and coated metal screens are preferred as they are less prone to damage and are longer wearing. Preferred metal screens are welded or wire woven stainless steel, zincalum, galvanized steel, brass, copper and fibreglass mesh. The mesh type and size will depend on the

application. For large size items welded galvanized steel mesh may be adequate whereas woven stainless steel may be most appropriate for small items. Generally, however, for the majority of general purpose locations, 5 the mesh size will be one of the standard sizes of 5mm, 7mm, 9mm or 12.5mm.

A discharge chute is suitably included in the lower portion of the compartment to direct the screened 10 water into the upper end of the downpipe. The discharge chute is preferably shaped and tapered so as to wedge into the downpipe to facilitate placement. To this end, it will have a conical or pyramidal shape depending on whether the downpipe is circular or rectangular in cross-15 section.

The compartment preferably has a rectangular outer dimension with an inclined lower wall which opens into the discharge chute. It can be fixed in position to 20 the fascia which supports the gutter, or to the wall of the building, by screws or the like which pass through a backing panel formed integrally with, or joined to, the rear wall of the compartment.

25 In use, water with entrained debris passages from the gutter and is directed by the flow guide onto the top of the perforated rotary drum. The angle at which the water and debris impinges on the rotary drum causes the drum to rotate. The perforations are designed 30 to prevent the passage of the debris therethrough but to permit the water to passage into the drum. The debris is ejected from the surface of the drum as it rotates and the water flows downwardly through the bottom wall of the drum and on into the top of the attached downpipe for 35 discharge.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

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Figure 1 is a schematic side-elevation of a separating device according to the present invention;

10 Figure 2 is a schematic front-elevation of the separating device shown in Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a schematic side-elevation of a separating device according to a second embodiment of the invention.

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In each of the drawings, like reference numerals refer to like parts.

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The separator device 10 comprises a compartment 11 with a perforated rotary screen 12 which is adapted for rotation in a horizontal plane about axle 13 extending through opposing side walls of the compartment.

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The compartment 11 is fitted to the upper end of a downpipe 14 and is secured to a fascia 15 by pins. The compartment 11 is located immediately below an opening 16 in a gutter 17, about which opening a rainwater flow guide 18 is formed. The rainwater flow 30 guide 18 has a sloping rear wall 19 which directs water and debris onto the top surface of the rotary drum 12 at a position past the central vertical axis 20 of the rotary drum.

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The rotary drum 12 has a wire mesh surface with square openings. It is supported on a framework which includes radial members 21, 22 passing through the central horizontal axle 13. The axle 13 is a solid

plastics or metal rod which enables free rotation of the drum.

In operation, rainwater and debris passes from  
5 the gutter 17 through the opening 16 downwardly into the flow guide 18. Here it is directed onto the top surface of the rotary drum 12 so as to cause the drum to rotate in the direction indicated by the arrow. Upon rotation debris which is larger than the mesh size of the screen  
10 is ejected away from the rotating drum while the rainwater continues on downwardly through the drum and into the downpipe 14.

In this manner a self-cleaning rain head is  
15 provided which meets the objective of the invention.

The device of figure 3 is similar to the device of figure 1 and like numerals have been used to denote like components to that shown in figure 1.

20 The device 10 has a compartment 11 fitted to an upper end of a downpipe 14. The compartment 11 is located immediately below opening 16 in a gutter 17 about which opening a rainwater flow guide 18 is formed. The  
25 guide 18 has a sloping rear wall 19 which directs water and debris onto the top surface of the rotary drum 12. Side extension 30 ensures that the compartment 11 extends beyond the drum 12. A screen 31 extends between the outer extremity of the extension 30 and the drum 12 and  
30 ensures that any water that does not pass through the drum may still enter the downpipe 14. Any debris directed onto the screen 31 is either washed from the screen or is free to be blown off the screen by the force of any wind acting on the screen.

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The screen 31 may have a mesh size of 6mm.

A support 32 may extend from a location on the

extension 30 to an edge of the screen 31. An optional screen 33 may extend across the compartment 11 and above the downpipe 14.

5 Whilst the above has been given by way of illustrative example of the invention, many modifications and variations may be made thereto by persons skilled in the art without departing from the broad scope and ambit of the invention as herein set forth.